



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Thursday - December 4, 2003

- ***In the West***, precipitation is again overspreading the ***northern Pacific Coast***, maintaining wet conditions ***west of the Cascades***. Mild, dry weather prevails elsewhere in the ***West***, fueling concerns about a continuation of long-term, hydrological drought in most watersheds ***east of the Pacific Coast States***.
- ***On the Plains***, beneficial precipitation (mostly light snow) is ending across ***Montana*** but overspreading the ***Dakotas***. Elsewhere, unfavorably dry conditions persist in most key winter wheat areas across the ***central and southern Plains***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, wintry weather (mostly sleet and light snow) is hampering travel in parts of the ***Ohio and middle Mississippi Valleys***, while soggy fields continue to slow final corn harvesting in the ***lower Great Lakes region***.
- ***In the South***, frozen precipitation (sleet, freezing rain, and snow) is falling ***east of the Appalachians*** across ***northeastern Georgia***, the ***western Carolinas***, ***southwestern Virginia***, and ***southeastern West Virginia***, causing travel and electrical disruptions. Meanwhile in the ***southern Atlantic region***, showers and thunderstorms are slowing late-autumn fieldwork.

Outlook: A complex winter storm will bring a mixture of snow, sleet, freezing rain, and rain to the ***Ohio Valley, Southeast, and Mid-Atlantic region***, while a high-pressure system will maintain cold, dry weather in ***New England*** through Friday. During the weekend, heavy snow will overspread parts of ***New England*** and may linger in the ***Mid-Atlantic States***. Farther west, a cold front will trigger light snow across the ***northern Plains and Corn Belt***, while high pressure will provide cool, dry weather to the ***Rockies and Southwest***. Elsewhere, locally heavy rain and high-elevation snow will overspread into the ***northern and central Pacific Coast States*** in advance of an approaching cold front. The 6- to 10-day outlook for December 9-13 calls for above-normal precipitation from the ***central and southern Plains eastward across the Ohio Valley and the Delta to the middle and southern Atlantic States***. Meanwhile, drier-than-normal conditions are expected across the ***northern Rockies and northern Plains***. Above-normal temperatures are likely across the ***northern one-third of the U.S.***, while colder-than-normal weather is forecast for the ***southern Rockies and southern Plains***.

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Web Site: <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf/AgWxHighlights/TODAYSWX.PDF>